ADAPTIVELY PREDICTING AND MODIFYING A COMMUNICATIONS USER INTERFACE

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

[0001] This application claims the benefit of priority to United States Provisional Application No. 60/775,989, entitled "ADAPTIVELY PREDICTING AND MODIFYING A COMMUNICATIONS USER INTERFACE" and filed Dec. 31, 2005, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Communications methods through computer and communications networks have evolved from basic methods of the past to a variety of types of communications today. Past communications concerned letter, then telegraph, facsimile and ultimately telephone conversations. Communications since then have evolved to include email, instant messaging, two-way paging, cellular telephones and cellular text messaging. Each of these newer modes of communication involve use of newer technologies. They also rely on networks which may overlap the telephone networks, but also use other network resources. As network resources can be relatively scarce, allowing for efficient use of those resources can be useful.

[0003] Managing communications opportunities for a user can also be a useful but daunting task. For example, keeping tabs on when a communication should occur, how it should occur, and where other participants are can be extremely useful, and extremely difficult. Often, a person may have a schedule of communications and meetings in a scheduling program, along with access to contact information which is barely integrated together. Thus, a schedule notice of a meeting (whether in-person or over the phone) and a contact phone number for that person may not be linked. Thus, it would be potentially useful to provide linkage between timing of meetings and information about attendees of meetings.

[0004] Additionally, providing an interface for different modes of communications on a computer or machine may be useful. Whether communication is to occur by phone, videoconference, instant messaging or some other mode, this may be transmitted through a computer or may occur in consultation with a computer. Thus, an integrated interface for communications may allow for more efficient use of multiple modes of communication.

SUMMARY

[0005] In various embodiments, a communications user interface which can be adapted based on predicted communications is provided. In an embodiment, a method of providing a communications user interface using a media player is provided. The method includes displaying a set of communications interfaces. Also, the method includes receiving data related to a schedule of communications. Furthermore, the method includes predicting upcoming communications sessions responsive to data related to a schedule of communications. The method also includes modifying the set of communications interfaces responsive to the predicting. Moreover, the method includes receiving user requests. Additionally, the method includes operating the set of communications interfaces responsive to the user requests.

[0006] In another embodiment, an apparatus is provided. The apparatus includes a server interface. The apparatus also includes a user interface. The user interface includes a set of communications interfaces. The communications interfaces are modifiable responsive to communications scheduling information and user requests. The apparatus additionally includes a media player. The apparatus further includes a content file including instructions for a media player to execute. The media player implements the user interface and the server interface responsive to the instructions of the content file. The media player predicts upcoming communications sessions responsive to communications scheduling information. The media player modifies the user interface responsive to predicting upcoming communications sessions.

[0007] In still another embodiment, a method is provided. The method includes displaying a set of communications interfaces in a user interface. The method also includes receiving data related to a schedule of communications. The method further includes predicting upcoming communications sessions responsive to data related to a schedule of communications. The method additionally includes modifying the set of communications interfaces responsive to the predicting.

[0008] In an embodiment, a method of providing a communications user interface using a platform-independent virtual machine operating responsive to a content file is presented. The method includes displaying a set of communications interfaces. The method also includes receiving data related to a schedule of communications. Furthermore, the method includes predicting upcoming communications sessions responsive to data related to a schedule of communications. Moreover, the method includes modifying the set of communications interfaces responsive to the predicting. Additionally, the method includes operating the set of communications interfaces responsive to the user requests.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The present invention is illustrated in an exemplary manner by the accompanying drawings. The drawings should be understood as exemplary rather than limiting.

[0010] FIG. **1** illustrates an embodiment of a communications interface.

[0011] FIG. **2** illustrates an embodiment of a communications user interface.

[0012] FIG. **3** illustrates an embodiment of a network of machines used in communications.

[0013] FIG. **4** illustrates an alternate view of the embodiment of FIG. **3**.

[0014] FIG. **5** illustrates an embodiment of a process of operating a communications user interface.

[0015] FIG. **6** illustrates an embodiment of a process of storing communications information.

[0016] FIG. **7** illustrates an embodiment of a network of machines which may be used in communications.

[0017] FIG. **8** illustrates an embodiment of a machine which may be used in communications.

[0018] FIG. **9** illustrates an embodiment of a client in a communications system.

[0019] FIG. **10** illustrates an embodiment of a process of server-side operations in a communications system.